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ABSTRACT

This publication contains the list of recommendations made by the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees Task Force on Library Interdependency and Funding and approved by the Board at their meeting on March 7, 1989. These recommendations will be incorporated into the 1989-1992 Long-Range Plan to begin the process of implementation for as many of them as possible. In order to facilitate future planning and implementation, the recommendations are grouped by categories of action: (1) To be done now; (2) To be done soon; (3) To be studied; (4) Support the concept and overall goal; (4) Must resolve funding issues, will need further study before decision is made; and (5) Must resolve funding issues, but intend to do soon. The entry for each recommendation includes comments on the current status of and factors involved in implementation and a code letter indicating the subcommittee that made the recommendation, i.e., academic (A), public (P), special (S), or school (SC) libraries. (BBM)

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Library of Michigan

Information At Risk:

Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

April 1989

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Library of Michigan

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Dear Colleague:

This publication contains the list of Task Force recommendations as arranged in categories and approved by the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees at their meeting on 7 March 1989. The Executive Committee of the Board developed the grouping by categories as an aid to future planning and implementation. The order of items within each category does not reflect prioritization within that category.

The full report of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees Task Force on Library Interdependency and Funding was published in October 1988 with the title Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's. This new publication reprints the Task Force recommendations in a different arrangement, with added notes on implementation.

These recommendations will continue to influence future plans and studies by the Library of Michigan. They will be incorporated into the 1989-1992 Long-Range Plan to begin the process of implementation for as many of the recommendations as possible.

I appreciate the hard work of the Library of Michigan Board members and Task Force members who contributed to this document.

Sincerely,

James W. Fry
State Librarian

JWF/js

Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

With Arrangement Into Categories
Reviewed and Adopted by the
Library of Michigan Board of Trustees
on 7 March 1989

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→	To be done now	1
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The recommendations are numbered just as they appeared in the full report of the Task Force, with a letter code following the number to indicate which subcommittee made each recommendation.

Added to each recommendation is a comment on implementation, as proposed by the Library of Michigan staff and endorsed by the Board of Trustees.

Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

Category of Action
→. To be done now.

→ 2. A **Recommend that union listing of all libraries' serial holdings into a statewide online database be a high priority goal for the state. The Library of Michigan should develop a mechanism for funding start-up costs and, more importantly, request funds from the State of Michigan to cover the annual storage fees for maintenance of the information in the database.**

LM to study plan and funding, will use LSCA III for initial year 1988-89, state funding thereafter, but on an increasing basis.

The building of the statewide union list of serials database through the OCLC national bibliographic utility has been underway since the early 1980's. The building of the database has enhanced the statewide sharing of resources particularly through interlibrary loan programs. In order to increase Michigan libraries' capacity to participate in resource sharing, serial union listings must be maintained and enhanced in the future. Annual storage fees are currently approximately $10,651 for all libraries, however, an anticipated fifty percent increase in the next year will raise the cost to $15,977.

→ 4. A **Recommend funding be provided to improve access to information databases throughout the state.**

1. Evaluation - LM will work with MLC to provide comparative information for evaluation of databases.

2. LSCA Title III discretionary funds will be made available in FY 1989-90 to support start up... continuing funding is local responsibility.

It is the primary responsibility of the parent institution to increase its academic library funding to support the purchase of hardware, software, and staff training when developing database services. However, in regions where these services are greatly lacking, the Library of Michigan could support the start-up funding with the use of LSCA funds. An ongoing program of information and evaluation of various databases would be helpful to the academic community in determining which to subscribe to or access. Likewise, the Library of Michigan should work with other groups to assure that all areas of the state have economical telecommunications access to database locations.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

→ 6. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan assume full responsibility for publishing and emphasizing all special collections housed in public libraries throughout Michigan.**

FY 1988-89 project for LM staff – letters to known participants, also notice in LM newsletter, plus notice to coops and ROCs, schedule publication of a directory of major special collections for 1989.

From the survey conducted as a part of the Task Force on Interdependency and Funding Public Library Subcommittee, a number of important and unique special collections were revealed that previously had little or no publicity. The special collections, if organized and published fully throughout the state, could become a valuable resource for sharing to all types of libraries in Michigan. They represent a little known, but potentially strong asset which needs attention and promotion.

→ 6. S **Recommend that the Library of Michigan issue a new separate publication listing special collections in Michigan's libraries. Such a listing would provide increased information for Michigan's residents.**

See Above.

Little information is currently available about the "special collections" which are a part of all types of libraries' holdings. Frequently these collections are not even in the library's cataloged data. Survey returns identified the existence of these "special collections". If a comprehensive description of these materials and their availability to Michigan's residents were included in a publication, a considerable new body of information would become available for research.

→ 1. S **Recommend that the State of Michigan increase its funding to the Library of Michigan so that the library can adequately fulfill its mission of leadership for all types of libraries in Michigan.**

For FY 1989-90 LM Board of Trustees recommended an increase of $500,000 for staff, $500,000 for resources and $292,000 for staff to provide additional service hours on weekends.

The Library of Michigan should expand its leadership, educational, and coordination role for all types of libraries. It is only natural that the library community of Michigan should look to the Library of Michigan as their internal leader. The Library of Michigan is uniquely qualified to fulfill this role. However, it is also imperative that the Library of Michigan receive sufficient funding for this role.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

→ 2. P **Recommend that Public Act 89, 1977, "The State Aid to Public Libraries Act", be funded at a 1989 level of $1.00 per capita in each of the three categories of State Aid as listed in Sections 13, 16(2) and 16(4) of the Act; that the geographic density factor in Section 16(4) be increased from $10.00 to $30.00; that the county reimbursement for head librarian's salary be increased from $4,800 to $15,000 in Section 16(5) with the county contribution to the library increased from $3,600 to $10,000.**

For FY 1989-90 LM Board of Trustees recommended an increase of $17,880,200 for State Aid to Public Libraries and Cooperatives.

In order to meet the Constitutional mandate that public libraries shall allow access to their resources to all of the residents of the State of Michigan, public libraries need to receive stronger state support. In 1987, only 7.6% of the income to public libraries came from state support, yet their doors are open to all residents of the state, students and faculty of colleges and universities, as well as public school students. Public libraries must meet minimum requirements and belong to a library cooperative before they may receive state aid. Public libraries are the primary access to information for the majority of the residents of the state, yet they receive minimal support to allow them to strengthen library collections, access networks, implement automation programs and participate in greater resource sharing activities. Stronger funding through cooperatives is one way in which public library service can be dramatically improved.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

→ 1. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan should, with established guidelines, fund through the state all of the Subregional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.**

For FY 1989-90 LM Board of Trustees recommended an increase of $720,000 in subregional funding to reach a total appropriation of $1,000,000.

Once primarily a service provided through the state library, service to the blind and physically handicapped has now been established in subregional libraries in various locations throughout the state. Funding is not adequate to support the basic service and the libraries must pull funding from local library budgets to provide the minimum levels of service to our residents. Funding for this service should come through the state in sufficient amounts to fully fund the service without impacting local library budgets. Current service can best be described as sub standard, minimal, and totally inadequate as we move towards the future and higher numbers of older Michigan residents. The Library of Michigan should either assume the full responsibility for adequate funding for each of the subregional libraries or resume both housing and administration of the programs at the state level.

→ 2. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan promote a strong, joint leadership role between itself and all types of libraries within the state.**

The Library of Michigan Board of Trustees and staff continue to work toward this goal. Recent progress includes the report of this Task Force, the new Long Range Plan for 1988-91, the 1988-89 statewide study of library development, and the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science, proposed for 1990.

Networking, resource sharing, interdependency...all can only be achieved with strong support and leadership through the Library of Michigan. Public libraries need to be recognized and valued for the unique and important role they assume in dealing with the residents of the state. Public libraries need to become an integral part of the network of libraries serving all of the residents of Michigan. The responsibility for bringing all libraries together, promoting them, and advancing them into the future as a model for other states to see and follow belongs to the Library of Michigan.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

→ 3. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan actively and widely publicize the critical status of hundreds of Michigan school library/media center programs by disseminating the results of the 1988 school library survey to the State Board of Education, local boards of education, professional educational associations, and particularly, to the general public.**

The Library of Michigan will publish the results of the Task Force survey of school libraries and media centers, and will distribute this document to the groups listed above, in addition to the distribution of the Full Task Force Report in FY 1988-89.

A close examination of the surveys used to collect data about school library/media programs revealed an extremely gloomy picture of the school library programs in Michigan. To best understand the problems, actual study of the survey results is required. School libraries are the basis for all library programs in Michigan – if we don't start out students with good school libraries which help them grow and understand the value of libraries, we will soon have an unenlightened citizenry which, in the future, may well not support libraries, whatever the type. Furthermore, on a more immediate basis, the Task Force has recommended greatly increased cooperation and networking among all types of libraries and, unless school library resources are improved, they will not be effective contributors to proposed cooperative, networking efforts. True interdependency mandates strong local units before cooperative efforts can be successful. Additionally, poor school libraries create a negative drain on all other types of libraries, particularly public and academic libraries. This drain creates service problems for public and academic libraries which have traditionally cooperated with school libraries, but are not equipped to replace them, which is rapidly becoming reality in some parts of the state.

Finally, in order to begin immediate rectification of the problem, a recommendation should be made to the Department of Education and Legislature that a portion of school aid be earmarked for school library/media center programs with funds being made available for both materials and staff. Incentives

should be part of the funding package to encourage school districts to provide matching funds to those provided in the state school library/ media center aid package.

Only by providing funding help as part of the school aid package will the real importance of school library media centers be recognized and the problems therein start being solved.

→ 7. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan assume an active advocacy role for all types of libraries in Michigan.**

The Library of Michigan Board of Trustees and staff continue to work toward this goal. Recent progress includes the report of this Task Force, the new Long Range Plan for 1988-91, the 1988-89 statewide study of library development, and the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Science, proposed for 1990.

Public libraries cross all of the boundaries of age, ethnic, social and economic boundaries as they serve the broad needs and interests of the public. They have been mandated by the Constitution to serve all residents regardless of where they reside. The demands on service and collections require that public libraries have strong representation and support through the Library of Michigan. The Library of Michigan needs to demonstrate a stronger advocacy role for public libraries and work with the legislature to strengthen library funding, technological development, resource sharing, and public library visibility in Michigan.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

→ 8. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan work actively for the benefit of children and youth in our state through school and public library programs.**

The Library of Michigan staff will publish the results of the Task Force survey of school libraries and media centers, and will distribute this document to the groups listed above, in addition to the distribution of the Full Task Force Report in FY 1988-89.

The Library of Michigan is charged in Public Act 540 to develop effective, statewide school library services "by all appropriate means". To date, the Library of Michigan has limited direct efforts related to school library media programs and centers to collecting statistics to be "preserved and published."

As school library media centers are the most numerous libraries in the state, serving a very active, captive user group which also represents the future of adult patronage, it is incumbent on the Library of Michigan to facilitate services to the children and youth of Michigan. If our children are our future, they should experience the best possible public as well as school library experiences.

→ 10. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan develop effective interdepartmental cooperation with the Department of Education, under whose supervision Michigan school libraries currently takes place, with specific endorsement of the MAME legislation (P.A. 141, 1988) for the establishment of a school library media center advisory committee.**

The Library of Michigan will publish the results of the Task Force survey of school libraries and media centers, and will distribute this document to the groups listed above, in addition to the distribution of the Full Task Force Report in FY 1988-89.

The School Libraries Subcommittee recognizes that when the Library of Michigan and Department of Education were separated from each other that the responsibility for school library/media center development was not assumed by either agency. However, with the passage of P.A. 141, 1988, which recognizes school library media centers, it is also time for the Library of Michigan and State Department of Education to work together in whatever avenues possible. In short, it is imperative that both agencies achieve a high degree of cooperation and coordination in their approach to school library/media center programs so that maximum effectiveness can be realized and costly duplication avoided.

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→ 11. S **Recommend that the Library of Michigan fully utilize its unique position to survey the educational needs of the state's librarians and to coordinate programs to meet these needs.**

A coordinated effort is already in place, including regular meetings of the state's major CE providers, and publications of CE opportunities in the LM Newsletter.

The Library of Michigan is in an excellent position to coordinate continuing library education. The Library of Michigan should survey the educational needs of the state's librarians. A unified calendar of educational opportunities from all library groups would increase awareness of available programs as well as to help avoid unnecessary duplication of workshops.

→ 11. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan recognize the difficulties that school library/media center personnel encounter in participating in staff development activities, and take an active role in coordinating and making available library staff development in order to provide for continuing opportunities for staff training and education.**

Included above.

Staff development activities geared to the needs of school library media specialists are available only in limited numbers in Michigan. The closing of Western Michigan University's librarianship program along with curtailment of off-campus offerings by the University of Michigan create hurdles for persons seeking additional professional training. The Library of Michigan, working in cooperation with universities providing library training, professional organizations such as MAME, and the Michigan Department of Education should spearhead professional training opportunities for school library media professionals on a statewide basis, particularly Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

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→ 12. S **Recommend that a new position be established on the Library of Michigan staff to coordinate special library services.**

The Library of Michigan staff will develop a specific recommendation for allocation of present and additional staff as called for in recommendations on additional funding for LM staffing. This will include liaison to state agency libraries which serve as special libraries.

A staff position should be created to unify services for the special library segment of the library community. The position should be filled by a special librarian. Such an addition to the staff would benefit the Library of Michigan's understanding of special libraries, their problems, and their potential contribution to all libraries.

→ 13. A **Recommend that the Library of Michigan coordinate grant proposal writing for groups of libraries.**

This is already a priority in continuing education for the Library of Michigan, with five workshops on grant writing held in the spring of 1988, with a total attendance in excess of 150 persons. Future workshop plans will include greater emphasis on the needs of academic libraries.

Smaller academic libraries have neither the staff nor the expertise required to develop appropriate grant proposals. The Library of Michigan should facilitate the preparation of proposals when the awarding of the desired funds would enhance resource access, resource sharing, or improved services for the public.

→ 4. P **Recommend that regional libraries in Michigan be encouraged to reorganize as district libraries.**

The Library of Michigan staff will contact the sole remaining regional library, and review the district library options with the library director and board.

Currently there is only one (1) regional library still in existence in the state. Under Michigan law, other types of libraries have become stronger and more desirable in terms of the advantages and support under the law. An incentive to encourage libraries to consider consolidation into district libraries should be established by the Library of Michigan.

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→ 1. S **Recommend establishment of a statewide library network. Financial support will be necessary to enable the "have-nots" to be an integral part of either an electronic mail system or a statewide "fax" system.**

The Library of Michigan has worked for several years to develop a telefacsimile network, with funding from LSCA III. This project will continue.

Rapid communication by all of the state's libraries is needed. Provision of a statewide library network could be accomplished by either a relatively cheap electronic mail system, a "fax" system, or some other network system. The present support for "fax" equipment could be extended. Financial support is necessary to enable some of the smaller libraries to become part of a statewide network. The network would provide Michigan's citizens with a more effective and efficient library service.

→ 5. S **Recommend the provision of adequate numbers of ports for general library access to the Library of Michigan online catalog.**

The current automation plan of the Library of Michigan includes provision for remote access to the NOTIS database. Additional ports can be added to meet the demand.

Any recommendation that suggests additions to the NOTIS database carries with it an implicit need for additional ports into the NOTIS system for access. Agency library and general library "special collection" additions to the database indicate increased need for entry into the system.

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Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

Category of Action
▲. To be done soon.

▲ 3. S **Recommend that funding and resources be provided to enable the smaller public libraries and special libraries to include their holdings in existing union lists.**

Add to LSCA III list of projects ROCs can support with major grants, LSCA III meets this need on a Regional Basis...new grant pattern begins in FY 1989-90 (LSCA III).

The majority of special libraries are small, as are many public libraries. Yet these libraries contain many items of unique value. Because of their limited resources, it is almost impossible for most of these libraries to commit part of their budgets toward the cost of inputting the information into a statewide database. State funding support would increase the overall value of the database.

▲ 6. A **Recommend that the Library of Michigan coordinate a statewide program for the purpose of identifying and converting to machine readable form special and unique cataloged collections.**

Special project for LSCA III major grants to ROCs available FY 1989-90 from LSCA III discretionary grant funds.

Throughout the state there are special and unique collections which have been cataloged locally which generally provide local access only. To enhance resource sharing by providing increased bibliographic access to these valuable collections, the existing cataloging records should be converted to machine readable form and the data added to a common database such as OCLC. The Library of Michigan should petition for special funding to accomplish this recommendation.

▲ 8. A **Recommend that the Library of Michigan coordinate a statewide program for the purpose of preserving valuable research and information materials located in Michigan libraries.**

1. LM will seek to add Preservation Specialist to staff for outreach training, and internal planning.

2. Under this person's direction, in FY 1990-91 convene statewide task force on major conservation projects.

Since it is not economically feasible for most libraries to establish and maintain preservation facilities, a cooperative statewide effort should be made, and funding should be provided by the State of Michigan. The long-term goal should be the establishment and maintenance of a centralized preservation and conservation facility. The short-term goal should be to secure funding to preserve, by binding or preservation microfilming, those information and research materials selected as worthy of preservation. In order for Michigan to be in the forefront in this area, a Task Force on Preservation should be created to put preservation activities into motion.

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▲ 9. A **Recommend development of reference sources in the local library (particularly CD-ROM) and coordinated implementation of reference services at the regional and state level.**

Special Project CD-ROM for LSCA III major grants FY 1989-90 from LSCA Title III discretionary grants.

The Library of Michigan should set up test sites or model installations as an experimental program to determine the economics and cost effectiveness of a CD-ROM program in an academic library setting. The test site would also be funded to provide demonstrations to other institutions and answer questions relating to the CD-ROM products: frequency of use, hardware available, reliability, etc. If there are positive cost-effective results from the test sites, the Library of Michigan should coordinate the initiation of at least one site in each region of cooperation.

▲ 3. A **Recommend development of a planned use of Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title III funds.**

The LM Long Range Plan for October 1988 through September 1991 (p. 46 and 47) contains three objectives for determining the use of LSCA Title III and ten recommendations for future action.

As the Library of Michigan completes its first federal audit of LSCA Title III funding and programs, it should develop a plan with region participation for how future funding will be made available for multitype activities. Will the LSCA Title III funds be reserved for the ROCs? Will monies be made available to other groups (such as a grouping of academic libraries) whose program ideas serve multitype resource sharing? What will happen to the regional structure if LSCA funds are discontinued? All libraries need to know the plan in order to effectively participate.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

▲ 3. P **Recommend that the growing dependency between public libraries and school libraries throughout the state be studied by the Library of Michigan.**

The Library of Michigan staff will increase cooperation with the Michigan Dept. of Education, and will report periodically to the LM Board of Trustees on progress being made. This work will begin in FY 1988-89.

Many public libraries are finding an ever increasing demand to act as the school library in many communities. This is due to the increasing budget cuts in school programs which either reduces school library budgets and personnel, or eliminates them altogether. Albeit, the public library serves all of the public, but it is caught in the dilemma of serving the full-range needs for students and teachers without any additional funding to support the strong and growing demand for materials and services. A joint study between the Library of Michigan and the State Department of Education could be undertaken as an interdependency effort to determine the scope of the problem and possible recommendations for funding support or other solutions.

▲ 5. A **Recommend the Library of Michigan provide the service of annually gathering appropriate statistics from the academic libraries in Michigan.**

Included below.

The Library of Michigan should work with academic libraries to develop an effective instrument for the gathering of statistics within the academic community. Then, the Library of Michigan should gather, compile, and publish such information on an annual basis.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

▲ 5. S **Recommend that the Library of Michigan continue to annually collect and analyze statistical data from all types of libraries.**

The Library of Michigan staff has begun a review of statistical reporting, in order to participate in the national statistical database on public libraries supported by the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. This review of statistical reporting in Michigan will result in the development of a statistical model that can also be used to gather data annually from academic, school and special libraries. The recommended format will be developed in time for use during FY 1989-90.

The Library of Michigan has had a responsibility for collecting statistical information about the various Michigan libraries. However, most of their effort has gone to the public libraries as these statistics have been required for fund allocations. The Task Force Survey has provided initial statistics for all types of libraries and the Library of Michigan should continue collecting and analyzing similar statistics annually.

▲ 5. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan continue to collect, to maintain and to provide a statistical analysis of all types of Michigan libraries for the purpose of providing current factual information about Michigan libraries.**

Included above.

Except for the area of public library statistics, there has been no consistent collection of statistical data about the various types of Michigan libraries which would provide historical documentation and comparative analysis. Librarians seek comparative data in order to gain a clearer understanding about funding, staffing, budget, and technology. A consistent collection of library statistics can provide libraries with an opportunity not only to gain a better understanding of other libraries within the state but also an opportunity to collect and to analyze statistical data at the local level.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

▲ 9. S **Recommend that the Library of Michigan develop a plan to both inform and change the current image that Michigan residents have of their libraries.**

The Library of Michigan staff will develop plans and programs to add this general publicity for libraries to its public relations agenda.

The survey results indicated that many librarians felt a strong need for a public relations program that would inform Michigan residents of the vast library resources and services available to them. The old images of libraries as mere storehouses of old books and of librarians who are there only to check out books or to collect fines are still prevalent. The Library of Michigan should help to change this image.

▲ 9. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan take a collaborative role in promoting the value and image of Michigan libraries and librarians, their inter-relationships, and their value to students and to the public.**

The Library of Michigan staff will develop plans and programs to add this general publicity for libraries to its public relations agenda.

The Library of Michigan is the "number one library" in Michigan related to public recognition. The new building will increase citizen awareness of the institution of the Library of Michigan. With this base of citizen support and recognition, the Library of Michigan is in a perfect position to actively promote Michigan libraries of all types, librarians, and their inherent value to all residents of Michigan. The promotion should use all print and electronic media to saturate Michigan with the library message.

A=Academic Libraries, **P**=Public Libraries, **S**=Special Libraries, **SC**=School Libraries

Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

Category of Action
■. To be studied.

■ 1. S **Recommend that support be provided for statewide library cooperation, especially interlibrary loans and resource sharing as an area development tool.**

Coop Dirs Committee working on database study during 1989...LM will study use of state and LSCA funds. Initial work on statewide database began 1988.

Survey results indicate a wealth of library resources that have been relatively untapped because their existence was not widely known. Much of this information can be shared to the benefit of Michigan's residents by statewide interlibrary loaning. Support is needed to prepare a database that all libraries can utilize to locate the items.

■ 7. S **Recommend development of a plan to promote cooperative collection development as a way to "stretch" libraries' funds for materials.**

To be included in Library Development Study – FY 1988-89 funded by LSCA Title I ... will add specific requirement for recommendation on "cooperative collection development".

The Library of Michigan should take the lead in developing a plan to encourage contributions by all types of libraries into a common pool of funds which could be spent to purchase very expensive items which most libraries cannot afford by themselves. These materials could be placed in the Library of Michigan or other designated location. By following such a plan, such items would be available to all Michigan residents.

■ 10. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan fund statewide information and reference referral centers.**

This goal will be discussed with representatives of the ROCs during 1989-90...to develop more specific ideas.

The major research libraries as defined by P.A. 371 of 1972, could be designated as reference referral centers and each assigned a geographic and/or subject area as a primary responsibility. These reference centers would be used as a backup resource for information requests which cannot be filled through small libraries and cooperatives. They would encourage stronger networking among types of libraries as well as stimulate resource sharing.

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■ 6. P **Recommend that new standards for quality public library service be created by the Library of Michigan working jointly with public libraries in the state.**

The statewide study of library development, to be completed within calendar year 1989, will include the review of public library standards, and provide recommendations for revisions as well as an implementation plan. Broad based participation by the library community is part of the statewide study.

Using both input and output *measures, but including some basic* checklist requirements, new standards need to be created and set for different degrees of excellence in public libraries. Standards should vary according to the population size (small, medium, large public libraries), level of quality for library service, and with an incentive program encouraging all public libraries to meet higher standards. New standards would include an incentive funding program for libraries as they improve quality of collections, local funding, excellence in the standards for service and standards for staffing. Present standards and funding for state aid would continue with no change until new standards were established and implemented concurrent with increased funding at the suggested $1.00 per capita level.

■ 2. P **Recommend that minimum standards and guidelines be re-defined for library cooperatives.**

The statewide study of library development, to be completed within calendar year 1989, will include the review of public library standards, and provide recommendations for revisions as well as an implementation plan. Broad based participation by the library community is part of the statewide study.

There is significant inequity among library cooperatives in Michigan. The services provided by the cooperatives differ dramatically. While there needs to be flexibility and diversity within each cooperative, it would appear that there is a need to re-examine the role of the cooperatives for consistency, services, and structure. The importance of the cooperatives is not in question, but the manner in which they interpret their purpose may now need to be re-evaluated.

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■ 3. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan undertake as a top priority, public library access to a statewide database.**

The Library of Michigan staff are currently working with a committee of cooperative directors to research possible means of providing a statewide database.

The Library of Michigan should fund a statewide database structured so that the holdings of libraries throughout Michigan could be located quickly and easily. Priority could be given to expand access to the MERIT network, or other statewide database, so that public libraries and cooperatives could actively promote resource sharing. Public libraries frequently lack the necessary funding to move into database access and the mission of the Library of Michigan could give priority to bring the state and its libraries together through such a program which would fund the program and create equal access to all of the residents of the state through all public libraries.

■ 4. S **Recommend that all state agency library collections be entered into the NOTIS database.**

The Library of Michigan staff will research possible means of adding state agency libraries to the NOTIS system, with a report to be completed in FY 1989-90.

A first significant step towards building a statewide database would be the inputting of the various state agency library collections into the Library of Michigan's NOTIS system.

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■ 6. A **Recommend the acquisition of new technological tools to accommodate a more technologically oriented clientele.**

The Library of Michigan staff will research possible means of providing support to libraries in areas of new technology.

While it is the primary responsibility of the parent institution to increase library funding to support the acquisition of new technological tools, including the purchase of hardware, software and staff training, the Library of Michigan should serve as a resource for information, evaluation of new technology, and establishment of protocols. A coordinating force is needed as the trend to multiplicity of automation networks within the state continues. The Library of Michigan should survey the regions of cooperation to ascertain that each has at least one academic library participating in the OCLC network; and, if not, the Library of Michigan should determine if monetary support is necessary to assure such OCLC network participation.

■ 6. S **Recommend that a new program be initiated to aid the librarians in the state to select and utilize the new technologies in their libraries. Demonstration projects should be provided.**

Same as above.

Technology is rapidly changing the information world, and all libraries will experience dramatic changes in the future. The Library of Michigan should assume an active role in providing the direction that the librarians indicated in their survey returns are needed to select and to utilize these new technologies. The changes are occurring so rapidly that it is nearly impossible for individual librarians to keep current.

■ 8. A **Recommend that the Library of Michigan work with the state agencies to expand access to the MERIT network or other statewide database to link libraries.**

Same as above.

Public academic institutions have access to the MERIT network which links their respective computer centers, and has the potential of linking the online systems of the state-funded academic institutions. If the five million resources of the private institutions are to be made more easily available, access to such a statewide utility needs to be expanded beyond public institutions.

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Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

Category of Action
▼. Support the concept and overall goal.

▼ 5. A **Recommend that the State of Michigan provide direct financial support to academic libraries which participate in programs of cooperative access and resource sharing to patrons who are not part of their primary clientele, that is, registered students, and faculty and staff of the institution.**

LM Board to go on record in support of additional funds through current channels to academic libraries to recognize wider use of those resources.

Academic libraries receive funding from the parent institution to service their faculties and students. Services to others are essentially being underwritten by the institution. Academic libraries which are net lenders through interlibrary loan, which service walk-in patrons not associated with the academic institution, or which participate in other resource sharing activities should have the costs of those extra services compensated by the State of Michigan. State funding of telecommunications costs associated with resource sharing, such as accessing state or national networks (e.g., OCLC, RLIN, WLN), or the use of telefacsimile equipment are additional examples of how state government can provide much needed assistance. 1987-88 OCLC telecommunication costs for libraries in Michigan is $225,250. An anticipated 6% increase each year for the next two years will increase the amount paid to $251,481. The statewide effort of resource sharing needs additional planning, coordinating and documentation. The Library of Michigan is in the best position to organize this effort in a manner not burdened with unnecessary paperwork. Likewise, the Library of Michigan should administer the funding for reimbursing academic libraries for services they provide the citizens of the State of Michigan.

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▼ 4. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan actively promote implementation of guidelines in the recent publication of Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) and American Association of School Librarians (AASL), Information Power: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs, particularly with respect to funding and staffing for school media centers.**

As part of the cooperative activity work the Michigan Department of Education, the Library of Michigan staff will review the guidelines in Information Power, together with the results of the Task Force survey.

New national guidelines for library media programs were adopted by the American Library Association (through the American Association of School Librarians division) and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology earlier this year. These **Information Power** guidelines replace the previous 1975 standards. The new guidelines emphasize program concept and structure on a qualitative basis. Quantitative standards are subordinate to the key concepts advocated. A "benchmark" opportunity is available to improve school library media services through implementation of the AASL/AECT **Information Power** guidelines, with particular regard to necessary staff and fiscal support.

▼ 12. SC **Recommend that the Library of Michigan support the designation of a school library media consultant within the Department of Education, and appoint a staff person of the Library of Michigan as official liaison with the Department of Education for school library cooperative activities.**

The Library of Michigan supports the designation of a school library media consultant within the Department of Education, and has assigned a staff member to serve as liaison.

The School Libraries Subcommittee recommends that a staff person of the Library of Michigan be appointed as official liaison with the Department of Education for school library cooperative activities. This individual shall assist the Library of Michigan in fulfilling its mandate to gather and analyze statistics relative to school library/media centers. This individual shall likewise assist both Departments to monitor compliance with approved standards for school library/media centers. This individual would serve as a contact person for personnel in school library/media centers for consultant services related to interlibrary cooperation.

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▼ 3. P **Recommend that legislation be introduced requiring all local units of government to be responsible for providing access to public library service for their residents.**

As a matter pertaining to new legislation, the Library of Michigan staff will forward this recommendation to the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Library Association, and work cooperatively to provide information as needed.

Public library service throughout the State of Michigan is very spotty. In some counties, there is county-wide library service, while in others there is no service at all. Some residents must travel long distances while others have the convenience of library service nearby. In order to encourage literacy and provide access to information for all of the residents of the state, cities, townships, and villages should be responsible for negotiating whatever is necessary to provide access to public library service for their residents.

▼ 7. S **Recommend that an equipment laboratory be created to assist practicing librarians in the evaluation and selection of new information technologies. Hardware, software and peripherals could be provided for comparison of various features.**

Same as above.

A centralized location where various equipment and systems could be compared would aid librarians to make decisions for acquiring new technologies. The Library of Michigan should provide the location where hardware, software and peripherals could be provided for comparison of various features.

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Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

Category of Action
◆. Must resolve funding issues, will need further study before decision is made.

◆ 11. S **Recommend development of a statewide plan for centralized storage of older, lesser used library materials. A method for rapid delivery of needed items is a requisite of the plan.**

Discuss with representatives of the ROCs in 1989-90.

Most special libraries have serious space problems and are forced to remove books from their collections regularly. Many of these items are still valuable but are no longer of immediate interest to the library and must be disposed of to make space. A central location for storage of withdrawn, but still valuable items would allow libraries to use their space more effectively, but would also keep these items available in the state. Magazine and journal runs could be handled in the same manner. A method for rapidly distributing copies of journal articles or parts of books via "fax" to libraries in Michigan would provide an important service to all.

◆ 4. P **Recommend that state grants be given to libraries serving populations under 25,000 that hire a director with an ALA accredited MLS degree.**

The Library of Michigan staff will develop a report on the specific details and costs of this proposal during FY 1989-90 with fiscal and legislative implications for implementation in FY 1990-91.

Public service may remain substandard in many ways if smaller libraries do not receive incentives which warrant stronger leadership and professional management. State aid grants to libraries serving smaller populations would provide the incentive to hire professional librarians to organize and direct the operations of library services and give stronger emphasis to the full range of information options to the public.

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◆ 5. P **Recommend that public libraries should receive matching incentive grants from the state for all funds expended for library materials in excess of a minimum percent of their annual budget.**

The Library of Michigan staff will develop a report on the specific details and costs of this proposal.

An incentive program implemented at the state level which would provide matching dollars as an incentive to public libraries to boost materials budgets would greatly improve library collections statewide. For example, the incentive could be divided by class size for libraries. A minimum percentage for a class 6 library could be 12% of the total budget, for example, and a state grant could be awarded in increments for everyone meeting the minimum annual expenditure. This would encourage library boards to allocate adequate funds for materials so that they would qualify for incentive grants. It would also discourage libraries from making cuts in their materials budgets in order to fund other programs.

◆ 6. P **Recommend that state aid grants should be given to district libraries that have been organized and that meet minimum standards.**

The Library of Michigan staff will compile facts bearing on this recommendation for review and discussion by the Library of Michigan Board.

The emphasis for this recommendation is to encourage the district library concept as a stronger alternative for smaller libraries. The future life of many small and isolated public libraries may depend upon local governments working together, rather than separately, through the formation of district libraries serving a larger geographical area, but providing a strong consolidated library service. Grants through the state would encourage townships, villages, cities and counties to consider a consolidation effort and formation of district libraries. Stronger resource sharing, collections, and overall library service would result in a better network of public libraries throughout Michigan.

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◆ 6. P **Recommend that an accreditation process for public libraries be established with a funding incentive for those meeting the standards for accreditation-with-excellence.**

The Library of Michigan staff will include this recommendation with materials prepared for the statewide study of library development.

As an incentive for improving local services, funding, and programs, an accreditation process would be established which would outline minimum standards for adequate-to-excellent levels of service. The accreditation and standards would be created to reflect the size and role of each library. Libraries meeting an "above average" level of service as defined by the process, would be accredited with distinction and would receive an additional 5¢ per capita. Libraries meeting "excellent" ratings would receive accreditation with the highest distinction and would receive 15¢ per capita. Accreditation would provide an excellent incentive for communities to work to maintain and build stronger local funding for public libraries, and it would also provide excellent public relations and promotional opportunities. Libraries could apply for accreditation and if approved would hold same for a 3 to 5 year period.

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◆ 11. A **Recommend that the Library of Michigan initiate an internship program and provide financial assistance to develop individuals for professional positions.**

The Library of Michigan staff will develop program recommendations for an expanded continuing education activity.

There are a significant number of professional positions which are difficult to fill and for which qualified applicants cannot be found. The state should assist in a program that would provide encouragement to libraries to identify individuals from within their libraries for enrollment in library school. Providing inducements for libraries to send staff members to library school, and providing financial assistance through scholarships and paid internship positions, would allow the library to "home-grow" individuals for current positions, for future vacancies, and for long-range planning. Up-state and rural libraries, which have the most difficult time in recruiting professionals, would benefit through a policy which requires a specified period of employment in a library following the completion of studies.

◆ 1. A **Recommend the development of a state-supported, statewide library card system for use in all libraries.**

The Library of Michigan staff is currently reviewing Access Pennsylvania and other statewide borrowers card systems, and will undertake a major study of means of implementation in Michigan.

Access Pennsylvania, a statewide card first implemented in 1985 in the state of Pennsylvania, has received excellent press coverage and reviews. A universal card, state-supported, printed by the state, that allows on-site borrowing would encourage and facilitate usage by our clients, the citizens of Michigan. Participating libraries would receive funding based on their participation, circulation of materials by clients who are "non-local library patrons", interlibrary loan processing, and interlibrary loans filled. Study of the Pennsylvania plan is recommended. The coordinator of this program and the facilitator for acquiring state funding should be the Library of Michigan.

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◆ 1. P **Recommend that a statewide library card be established in Michigan for use in all types of libraries.**

Same as above.

In accordance with the Constitutional mandate that all public libraries be accessible for use by all of the citizens of our state, it is recommended that we study the example implemented in Pennsylvania called, "ACCESS PENNSYLVANIA". The system was initiated in 1986 in 23 counties on a trial basis and in 1987 it was extended to all 67 counties of the state. It allows any person registered as a resident to borrow materials at a participating library without fee. The success of the program has reported an average 10% increase in the use of library materials since the barriers have been removed. Compensation is paid by the state to libraries lending materials to other libraries when it is not practical for clients to visit them. The reimbursement compensation covers the full cost of lending materials and thus eliminates the fees which are normally charged to the clients. Cost for delivery of the materials is also subsidized by the state. A library card in Pennsylvania opens 600 public libraries and 22 million books to residents of that state. True resource sharing has been achieved.

◆ 1. S **Recommend the establishment of a statewide library card as a method of improving patron access to the state's information.**

Same as above.

One hurdle preventing the public's use of our state's library resources is the lack of a statewide library card. Although many special libraries do not allow circulation of some of their materials, others do, and the lack of any mechanism hinders full use. Some compensation should be available to offset costs of the increased volume of transactions. The Pennsylvania Plan should be studied as a model of one plan that has worked.

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◆ 1. SC **Recommend support of a statewide library card, with use of this card tied to incentive reimbursement for the participating libraries.**

Same as above.

A first step toward statewide interdependency of libraries would be the issuance of the statewide library card – the ticket to use any library. Though some school boards may object to use of school library materials by the general public, probably the greater number of boards may see the value of wider use of school library resources. Additionally, greater public awareness of not only school library collections, but all types of collections may be a fringe benefit of the statewide library card. Incentive funding for libraries which lend materials to "non-residents" in large numbers would encourage all libraries to participate.

◆ 1. P **Recommend that the Library of Michigan develop a communications network to transmit requests quickly and efficiently throughout the state.**

The Library of Michigan supports the goal of improved communication between libraries, and will undertake a major study of possible improvements.

In an age where information has become a top commodity for individuals as well as for business and industry, communication networks become a high priority for libraries in accessing and delivering information. In the interest of serving the residents of the state, the Library of Michigan should undertake to develop and support a communication network which will be a part of every library or cooperative service center, and which will assist in and promote the quick and efficient delivery of information to the residents of Michigan through public libraries.

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◆ 2. A **Recommend development of software that would facilitate cooperative usage of systems, libraries, access to collections, and access to databases.**

The Library of Michigan supports the goal of improved communication between libraries, and will undertake a major study of possible improvements.

Considerable duplication of effort is made by individual libraries and systems in the development of software for in-house use. The state should support and encourage the development of software that could allow diverse systems to communicate (e.g., CLSI with NOTIS via MERIT) providing access to all libraries and collections which have automated or are planning to automate. Also possible is the development of software that would make access to "complicated" databases easier by the client. The Library of Michigan should take a leadership role in this endeavor.

◆ 2. S **Recommend the provision of guidelines for automating access to all major libraries in Michigan so that user/access/interfaces to the systems are similar.**

Same as above.

Currently, Michigan's libraries are using many different software programs to access their own databases. Effective interface can be provided by establishing guidelines for similar access to these systems so they can be used more easily by all libraries.

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◆ 2. SC **Recommend the utilization of technology to promote access to local and special collections by networking and linkage among all types of libraries.**

Same as above.

Computer technology now permits greater accessibility to collections than ever before. What were once "hidden pockets" of information buried away in collections, can now be accessed through library databases. The Library of Michigan should strongly encourage libraries of all types, perhaps through incentive grants for retrospective conversion, to participate in linking their collections through computer technology. An analysis of each library – school, public, special, and academic – would reveal that <u>every</u> library to some extent has unique holdings. These unique holdings could potentially become part of a statewide network of information resources which will permit the citizens of the State of Michigan to access collections which previously have been unavailable.

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Information at Risk: Michigan Libraries in the 1990's

Review of Task Force Recommendations

Category of Action
• Must resolve funding issues, but intend to do soon.

● 1. A **Recommend the evaluation of the regions of cooperation in regards to the role they have played, are performing, and should take in multitype cooperation.**

The Library of Michigan, through the 1988-91 Long Range Plan and other activities, has scheduled a major review of Regions of Cooperation for FY 1988-89. Staff will begin this review in FY 1988-89, pending the outcome of the library development study.

The Library of Michigan should develop more definitive guidelines for the regions of cooperation. If they are to be the means for multitype library development within the state, the regions of cooperation need to be structured to assure that they are multitype in organization and operation. Additionally, the Library of Michigan should determine an on-going base of support (state funding) for the regions of cooperation if they are to perform the function of multitype library development. A clear articulation of the role of the regions of cooperation by the Library of Michigan is a needed and necessary first step.

● 1. P **Recommend that a study be made to consider combining cooperatives and regions of cooperation into one multitype library cooperative.**

The Library of Michigan, through the 1988-91 Long Range Plan and other activities, has scheduled a major review of Regions of Cooperation for FY 1988-89. Staff will begin this review in FY 1988-89, pending the outcome of the library development study.

Library cooperation is based on the premise that libraries can improve services to their primary clientele and/or reduce expenses by working together. While regions of cooperation have been successful in fostering and increasing multitype library cooperation, the possibility of eliminating one level of bureaucracy and combining it with another existing service (public library cooperatives) needs to be considered. Multitype cooperatives could help meet all current needs and foster still stronger interdependency, funding and overall sharing between all types of libraries. Governance for such an organization would need to be changed and carefully constructed to allow adequate representation for all types of libraries. Public libraries would need assurance that existing levels of service would continue, but new possibilities would also open between all libraries within the new

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cooperative. Since the basic geographical area for the regions of cooperation is, for the most part, the same as the public library cooperatives, and since the public library cooperatives are acting as the fiscal agents for the regions of cooperation, and because services offered are similar, the two organizations might be merged, more strongly funded, and the move would be beneficial to promoting interdependency in the state.

● 1. S **Recommend that the regions of cooperation be formalized through legislation so that all types of libraries could have equal access to the state's library resources. Increased funding for the regions of cooperation is also necessary.**

The Regions of Cooperation are the natural mechanism for organizing and funding new multitype library cooperation. The ROCs should be formalized through the state legislature so they could also serve the school and special libraries who currently have limited access to state resource networks. ROCs should also be reorganized so that policies, procedures, and funding priorities are uniform statewide. All special libraries should be encouraged to join a ROC. ROCs should be a regular part of the state funding after the legislative change in status.

The Library of Michigan, through the 1988-91 Long Range Plan and other activities, has scheduled a major review of Regions of Cooperation for FY 1988-89. Staff will begin this review in FY 1988-89, pending the outcome of the library development study.

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● 1. SC **Recommend that provision be made for incentive funding for the development and support of multitype cooperatives, including participation by school library/media centers; this should include a review and restructuring of the regions of cooperation.**

The Library of Michigan, through the 1988-91 Long Range Plan and other activities, has scheduled a major review of Regions of Cooperation for FY 1988-89. Staff will begin this review in FY 1988-89, pending the outcome of the library development study.

Multitype library communication, cooperation and coordination can be very helpful and advantageous to all types of libraries. School library media centers, in particular, can benefit from this type of synergy.

The Regions of Cooperation (ROCs), while helpful in some areas of the state, generally provide uncertain and uneven service to school library media centers and other types of libraries. Their purpose is unclear and organizational relationships are muddled statewide. Regions of Cooperation hold a very real potential for substantive positive impact. It is apparent, however, that thorough review and restructuring of ROCs is necessary before their full contributions to Michigan libraries and their patrons can be realized.

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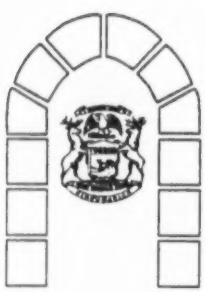

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